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crystalline form and much less frequently of sub-cooled water drops. Cumulus, nimbus, stratus, alto-cumulus and strato-cumulus are composed of water drops, which may be sub-cooled, or of ice pellets, sometimes mixed with small regular crystals.

INVESTIGATION OF THE UPPER AIR IN ENGLAND.

Nature (December 14, 1905) reports that the Meteorological Committee has assigned from the parliamentary grant under its control a sum for promoting the investigation of the upper air by kites and other means. It is proposed to establish an experimental station for kite ascents and other experimental investigations; to develop and extend the instrumental equipment, so that facilities may be afforded for the cooperation of other observers upon sea and land, and to provide for the publication of the observations. Mr. W. H. Dines will undertake the direction of the operations for the Meteorological Office. The cooperation of marine observers will be enlisted, and several offers of assistance in the work at land stations have already been received.

TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY DATA.

BULLETIN O of the United States Weather Bureau contains a useful collection of data concerning the temperature and relative humidity of the United States. The tables include the following: highest and lowest temperatures recorded at Weather Bureau stations for each month (with charts); monthly and annual mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures; monthly and annual mean relative humidity. If we are not mistaken, these data have all been published in the 'Annual Reports of the Chief of the Weather Bureau,' but it is very convenient to have them in a separate *Bulletin*, of less bulky proportions than the annual reports.

R. DEC. WARD.

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

January 15.—The Secretary of the Treasury transmitted a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting an estimate of appropriations for the International

Seismological Association. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

January 26.—Mr. Lacey introduced a bill in the House to protect birds and their eggs in game and bird preserves. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Babcock introduced a bill to prohibit the killing of birds and other wild animals in the District of Columbia. Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

January 30.—Mr. Cushman introduced a bill for the protection and regulation of the fisheries of Alaska. Referred to the Committee on the Territories.

February 1.—A bill to establish a fish-cultural station in the state of Utah was considered as in committee of the whole. It proposes to appropriate \$25,000 for the establishment of a fish-cultural station in the state of Utah, including purchase of site, construction of buildings and ponds, and equipment, at some suitable point to be selected by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. The bill was passed in the Senate.

A bill to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 under similar conditions to those of the first bill, to establish a fish-cultural station in the state of Wyoming, was also passed.

A bill to establish one or more fish-cultural stations on Puget Sound, state of Washington, was considered as in committee of the whole. It proposes to appropriate \$50,000 for the establishment of one or more fish-cultural stations on Puget Sound, state of Washington, for the propagation of salmon and other food fishes, including purchase of sites, construction of buildings and ponds, purchase and hire of boats and equipment, and such temporary help as may be required for the construction and operation of the fish-cultural stations, at a suitable point or points to be selected by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, the number of fish-cultural stations to be determined by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. Passed in the Senate.

February 8.—The bill to establish a fish-cultural station in the city of Fargo, North Dakota, passed the Senate.

The act to provide for the protection of the salmon fisheries of Alaska, approved June 9, 1896, was amended in the Senate by the passage of the following section:

Sec. 2. That it shall be unlawful to fish, catch, or kill any salmon of any variety, except with rod or spear, above the tide waters of any of the creeks or rivers of less than 500 feet width in the Territory of Alaska, except only for purposes of propagation, or to lay or set any drift net, set net, trap, pound net, or seine for any purpose across the tide waters of any river or stream for a distance of more than one third of the width of such river, stream, or channel, or lay or set any seine or net within 100 yards of any other net or seine which is being laid or set in said stream or channel, or to take, kill, or fish for salmon in any manner or by any means in any of the waters of the Territory of Alaska, either in the streams or tide waters, except Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, Bering Sea, and the waters tributary thereto, from midnight on Saturday of each week until midnight of the Sunday following; or to fish for or catch or kill in any manner or by any appliance, except by rod or spear, any salmon in any stream of less than 100 yards in width in the said Territory of Alaska between the hours of 6 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock in the morning of the following day of each and every day of the week.

The bill to prohibit aliens from taking fish from the waters of the District of Alaska, passed the Senate.

The House bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to lease land in Stanley County, South Dakota, for a buffalo pasture, was reported from the Committee on Public Lands, of the House, and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

THE COMING MEETING OF THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

On the fifteenth of May, at the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York, a meeting will be held in order to organize 'The Museums Association of America.' Already the administrative heads of almost all of the more important museums, both of art and of natural history, in the United States and Canada have signified their intention, if possible, to be present at this meeting, and many have signified their pur-

poses to read papers upon important subjects connected with the work of museums. The trustees of the Botanical Garden in Bronx Park have invited those attending this preliminary meeting to accept their hospitalities during one day's session, and have tendered a luncheon to the association. The committee of arrangements desires all who may be connected with museums in official capacities, or who take an interest in the work of museums, and who may desire to enroll themselves in such an organization, to signify that fact to the undersigned, who will, upon receipt of an intimation of their desire to be enrolled as members of the association, send to them at once the proper papers to be filled out.

It is hoped that this invitation will meet with a general response. W. J. HOLLAND.

THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM,
PITTSBURG, PA.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A BILL granting permission to Professor Simon Newcomb, U. S. N., to accept the decoration of the order 'Pour le Mérite, für Wissenschaften und Kunst,' tendered by the emperor of Germany, passed the senate on February 8.

M. H. DE CHATELIER, professor of chemistry in the Collège de France, has been elected a corresponding member of the Berlin Academy of Sciences.

EMPEROR WILHELM has appointed Professor Ernst von Bergmann a member of the upper house of parliament (Herrenhaus) for life. This is the first time that such an honor has been conferred on a member of the medical profession.

DR. W. J. HOLLAND, the director of the Carnegie Museum, has accepted the invitation of the editor of the 'Encyclopedia Britannica,' London, to prepare the article upon Natural History Museums for the twelfth edition of the encyclopedia.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY will confer its doctorate of laws on Robert E. Frasher, F.R.S., superintendent of the admiralty experiment works and member of the admiralty committee on warship designs.